

drafted since 1950 has the equivalent of the equal rights amendment, except the United States of America.

Though some might say otherwise, it is clear that women need the equal rights amendment, and we need it now. We need the ERA to strengthen the movement women have been building to achieve paycheck fairness and paid family leave, to prevent discrimination against women who are pregnant in the workplace, and to fight for comprehensive reproductive health for all women and girls.

Today, I will vote for the equal rights amendment to assure that my granddaughters, that women and girls throughout the world and throughout the country, are not only strong, powerful, and resilient, but also equal here in the United States under the Constitution.

HONORING CONNIE LAWSON

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson.

Since 2012, Connie has overseen Indiana's elections and modernized how Hoosiers and businesses interact with the State. Connie championed comprehensive election reforms that included election security and expanded our voting access for Hoosiers.

Connie is a fierce advocate for Hoosiers to be financially literate and has advocated high schools offer a free financial class to all students.

Connie modernized State government departments by implementing an efficient one-stop portal for businesses to register, file, report, and make payments to State agencies.

Prior to being secretary of state, Connie served 16 years in the Indiana State Senate and, before that, was clerk of the Hendricks County Circuit Court.

I congratulate Connie on her retirement. On behalf of all Hoosiers, we will miss your 33 years of dedicated public service.

SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT FARMWORKERS

(Ms. BROWNLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our Nation's immigrants, the farmworkers who toil in our fields to feed us, and our Dreamers, the exceptional young people who are the promise and future of America.

Our immigration laws should reflect our shared values as a Nation, especially the importance of keeping families and communities together.

In my district in Ventura County, California, agriculture is a cornerstone of our regional economy. Immigrant farmworkers are essential to putting food on America's table.

Because of the essential role farmworkers play in our economy and our communities, I support the creation of an earned pathway to citizenship.

I also stand with our Dreamers, many of whom have known no other home than the United States. Dreamers are the embodiment of the American Dream. Dreamers represent the very best of our country, and they are realizing their fullest potential. Their success is America's success.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Farm Workforce Modernization Act and the American Dream and Promise Act.

HONORING JOEL BENSON

(Mr. CAWTHORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAWTHORN. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor an august leader within my hometown community in western North Carolina, a proven entrepreneur and a great business leader who is about to open a second quick-service restaurant in my district, which will employ over 100 people.

Not only will this restaurant employ 100 people, this restaurant will also feed 100 families. This restaurant will help house 100 families.

Not only will these employees get to have the honor of being able to earn a living to provide for their families, but they will also be under the careful tutelage of their new employer, Joel Benson, who everyone in my community will recognize is one of the most influential people in my district. Joel is excellent at maximizing the potential in everyone in his care and in his sphere of influence.

Today, I rise to honor a great mentor of mine and a great business leader who is providing jobs and a strong economy to North Carolina, Joel Benson.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Benson for his service to our community.

HONORING WOMEN OF STEEL

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in observance of Women's History Month to honor Women of Steel, an advocacy-arm of the United Steelworkers.

Throughout the years, women from diverse backgrounds have played an instrumental role in paving the way for women in the steel industry.

Among these remarkable leaders was Ola Kennedy, a resident of Gary, Indiana, who worked for 28 years at Hammond Valve. A devoted community leader, Ola was involved in many union and civic organizations and was one of the founding members of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

I also want to celebrate Roberta Wood who, along with Ola, cofounded

the steelworker women's caucus in the Chicago-Gary district of the Steelworkers union. In 1976, Roberta was elected the first female member of the USWA Local 65's executive board and is currently a member of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to celebrate Women's History Month and recognize the role Women of Steel have played to organize, unionize, rally, and inspire workers to fight for justice. These extraordinary women continue to be fearless, strong, and vocal advocates for more women in leadership and carry on the march to fight for full gender equality in the workplace. I commend these women.

PROTECTING SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

(Ms. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say how honored I am to be able to file two amendments to the critical reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

My first amendment aims to protect the safety and privacy of survivors by creating a statutory mandate that a victim's safety should be central to housing decisions made by covered housing providers. This amendment will ensure that housing providers do not evict survivors, keep their information confidential, and prioritize their safety when considering admissions, assistance, transfers, and more.

My second amendment is a direct response to an issue in my home State of North Carolina. Sexual assault nurse examiners, or SANE nurses, play a critical role in providing medical care to sexual assault survivors and collecting evidence for criminal prosecution.

Unfortunately, in North Carolina, SANE nurses can be difficult to locate, and some survivors travel to multiple hospitals and have to wait hours to see a SANE nurse. My amendment allows certain grants in the bill to be used to create databases.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN SAVANNAH

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Patrick's Day in Savannah, Georgia.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade in Savannah began in 1824, and it is now a parade that gathers hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world.

The second-largest St. Patrick's Day in the United States is important for everyone in Savannah, but it is especially important for the Savannah

Irish community. Savannah has a historically large Irish community that is integral to the fabric of the city, and the St. Patrick's Day parade is the direct result of this impact.

Unfortunately, the parade and election of the grand marshal was canceled this year due to the pandemic. However, it is important that we continue to celebrate and honor the heritage and culture of the Irish. I look forward to continuing this special tradition and celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Savannah with everyone once the pandemic ends.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, we will vote to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, one of the most important bills in history to protect women and girls.

This photograph is of then-Senator Joe Biden, myself, and other women leaders when we introduced this important bill in 1994. It is still important. We need to reauthorize it. There is no doubt he will sign it into law.

We live in a world where 1 in 4 women have experienced sexual violence. Reauthorizing VAWA is about creating a future where all those experiencing dating and gender-based violence feel supported to seek help, and where survivors are given the tools they need to heal. It is about ensuring a better, safer future for the next generation. I urge a "yes" vote by all of my colleagues.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

(Ms. JACOBS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACOBS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the equal rights amendment.

From the beginning, gender equality was left out of the Constitution. Generations of women and LGBTQ-plus Americans lived and died without ever having the equal rights and dignity that they deserve under the law.

We know that the ERA is necessary by the words of its opponents, including the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who argued that the Constitution does not prohibit discrimination based on sex. We can change that.

Madam Speaker, 38 States have ratified the ERA. The only hurdle that remains is the arbitrary deadline set by Congress, a deadline that passed before I was born, but a deadline that never stopped the pursuit of justice. With every vote we take in this Chamber, we have the chance to correct past mistakes and repeal past wrongs. That is what we will do again today.

Madam Speaker, our march for equal rights is not done. It will not stop, and it does not expire.

REMOVING THE DEADLINE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 233, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BEATTY). Pursuant to House Resolution 233, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 17

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding any time limit contained in House Joint Resolution 208, 92d Congress, as agreed to in the Senate on March 22, 1972, the article of amendment proposed to the States in that joint resolution shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the United States Constitution whenever ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for one hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.J. Res. 17.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Madam Speaker, H.J. Res. 17 is long-overdue legislation to ensure that the equal rights amendment can finally become the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution. The House passed identical legislation last Congress on a bipartisan basis, and I hope it will do so again today.

Madam Speaker, in 1923, Alice Paul first introduced an amendment to the Constitution to guarantee full equal protection for women. The text of the amendment is simple and clear: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

That amendment passed with overwhelming bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate in 1972.

Unfortunately, it fell just short of being ratified by the requisite number of States before the arbitrary deadline

imposed by Congress ran out in 1982. In the 40 years since, we have made great strides in this country to ensure equality. Women have secured the right to vote, protection against workplace discrimination, and through case law decided under the 14th Amendment, many other critical protections denied them for too long on the basis of sex.

Without the ERA, millions of women have still had to march in support of their rights, their healthcare, their reproductive freedom and abortion access, and their dignity as equal citizens. Through the Me Too movement, we have had long-overdue, and sometimes painful, conversations about the violence and harassment that women and others experience—whether in the workplace, at homes, or in schools and universities.

But still, to this day, the Constitution does not explicitly recognize and guarantee that no one can be denied equal protection of the laws on the basis of sex. The ERA would enshrine those principles and take the final, critical step of ensuring that laws disadvantaging women and gender minorities are subject to the most rigorous form of scrutiny.

Last year, Virginia became the 38th and last necessary State to ratify the ERA, and, today, in passing H.J. Res. 17, we will be one step closer to enshrining it into law. This resolution removes a previous deadline Congress set in the amendment's proposing clause for ratifying the ERA, and will, therefore, ensure that recent ratifications by Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia are given full effect.

We are on the brink of making history, and no deadline should stand in the way. The Constitution itself places no deadlines on the process for ratifying amendments. Congress, just as clearly, has the authority to extend or remove any deadlines that it previously chose to set in the first place.

The recent ruling by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia refusing to recognize the recent State ratifications makes it even more imperative that Congress act now in removing this deadline. We must make it absolutely clear that Congress does not want language put in the proposing clause of a resolution 40 years ago to stand in the way of full equality now.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative SPIER for introducing this resolution, which takes that important step. This resolution will ensure, at long last, that the equal rights amendment can take its rightful place as part of our Nation's Constitution.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding.

H.J. Res. 17 is not a resolution to revive the equal rights amendment; it is